

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2035

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2534

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF CB TH

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE WITH CAMBODIAN REFUGEES

REFS: A) STATE 084167; B) GENEVA 2533

1. MISSION'S COUNSELOR FOR RMRC MET SUNDAY MORNING WITH ICEM DEPUTY DIRECTOR MASELLI AND UNHCR DIRECTOR OPERATIONS JAEGER TO DISCUSS ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS ARRANGEMENTS FOR CARE AND RESETTLEMENT OF NEW CAMBODIAN REFUGEES. MISOFF BRIEFED UNHCR AND ICEM REPS ON PROBLEM AS OUTLINED REFTEL A.

2. BOTH UNHCR AND ICEM GAVE ASSURANCE THEIR MAXIMUM COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE IN FACILITATING MOST RAPID RESETTLEMENT THESE REFUGEES WHETHER FROM THAILAND OR THIRD COUNTRIES. JAEGER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT CAMBODIANS IN QUESTION ARE PRIMA FACIE ELIGIBLE FOR REFUGEE STATUS UNDER UNHCR MANDATE. THUS, HE INDICATED UNHCR'S WILLINGNESSTO PROVIDE PROTECTION, CARE AND MAINTENANCE, AND RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE AS NECESSARY.

3. UNHCR WILL TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO HAVE THEIR REPS IN BANGKOK (KADRY AND RASANAYAGAM) ASSESS PROBLEM IN THAILAND AND REPORT ON URGENT BASIS.

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THIS REGARD, NEED INDICATED FOR AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO COORDINATE WITH LOCAL UNHCR REPS FOR PURPOSE
DEVELOPING ACTION PROPOSALS WHICH MIGHT INVOLVE
UNHCR AND ICEM. ICEM WILL BE PREPARED TO SEND
RESETTLEMENT EXPERT(S) TO BANGKOK AT SHORT NOTICE
IF NECESSARY.

4. RESPECT RESETTLEMENT, UNHCR AND ICEM REPS
POINTED UP NEED TO KNOW WISHES OF REFUGEES IN ORDER
DEVELOP SUITABLE IMMIGRATION POSSIBILITIES.
WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT BULK OF REFUGEES IN QUESTION
MAY CHOOSE TO GO TO USA, THEY INDICATED WILLINGNESS
TO APPROACH OTHER TRADITIONAL REFUGEE RECEIVING
COUNTRIES TO OPEN THEIR DOORS TO CAMBODIAN REFUGEES
FROM THAILAND OR THIRD COUNTRIES.

5. MISSION WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT THIS MATTER
WITH UNHCR AND ICEM AND REPORT ANY SIGNIFICANT
DEVELOPMENTS. ABRAMS

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